

Summer policy briefing

niace
promoting adult learning

Friday 24 July 2009

NIACE, Renaissance House, 20 Princess Road West, Leicester LE1 6TP



Digital Britain

Implications for adult learners and providers

Please retain pages 1 -4

Background

When Lord Carter's **Digital Britain** report was published in June 2009 it drew together a number of important policy issues which will impact directly on all UK citizens. Whilst NIACE welcomes the potential benefits of Britain developing world class digital networks, there are real challenges if we are to ensure that all adults have the access to learning they need so that they can keep pace with change.

The report warns: *Those without access to the Internet suffer economic disadvantage. Their opportunities and livelihoods can be compromised by exclusion from the digital world.* Research also tells us that there are absolute correlations between adults who are on the wrong side of the digital divide, the learning divide and the economic divide.

In addition to some impressive sounding technical infrastructure developments around "tubes, pipes and networks", the report offers a vision of a highly connected community and recognises the need for a Digital Participation Plan led by the broadcasting regulator, Ofcom. In addition a Digital Inclusion Task force is created, headed up by Digital Inclusion Champion – Martha Lane Fox.

'Digital Life Skills' are central to the success of this plan and the report takes account of Baroness Estelle Morris's independent review of adult ICT skills which recommends an 'entitlement' to nine hours of training.

One of the 'digital dividends' resulting from the roll-out of digital audio broadcasting will be the freeing up of FM capacity making way for 'ultra-local' radio stations. This will widen further our access as citizens to the airwaves. Added to this is the explosion of opportunities for people to publish for themselves online. In order to be active participants in community life, it is increasingly important for adults to be able to acquire not only the technical and language skills needed to create communications in a variety of contexts but also to recognise the rights and responsibilities associated with making adults' digital voices heard.

Aims

The aim of this event is to air both the opportunities and challenges for adult learners that NIACE has identified within the **Digital Britain** report.

The report provides a vision of a journey to the future without answering all of the questions about how we will get there. This policy briefing will offer a chance to explore these questions and more.

- How can we engage with the 17 million people who are still excluded from digital technology?
- How will the nine hours of Digital Life Skill entitlement be funded and how can we be sure that the support will meet the needs of people who have been the last to join the digital world?
- Will the quite reasonable attempts to protect Intellectual Property have a perverse effect and restrict reasonable access to materials by learners?
- How will we make sure adults have the skills needed to flourish in a digital world?
- With a predicted flowering of 'ultra local' sound broadcasting from 2015 and online publishing are we about to witness a new need for learning programmes which reflect the rights and responsibilities of citizen publishers?
- How will teachers of adults maintain their knowledge and skills in the world of increasing technological diversity?
- Will provision of superfast broadband to urban areas actually lead us to a new urban / rural digital divide?

Audience

This event will be aimed at anyone with a professional or personal interest in the impact of digital technologies on the future of adult learning in Britain – including adult learning practitioners across all sectors, policy-makers and opinion-formers, strategists and managers.

Friday 24 July 2009
NIACE, Renaissance House, Leicester

Programme

- 09:45** Arrival and registration (tea/coffee available)
- 10:15** Welcome and introduction to the day from the Chair
Alastair Thomson, Principal Advocacy Officer, NIACE
- 10:30** Digital learning in a Digital Britain
Alastair Clark, Senior Programme Director – Digital Learning, NIACE
- 11:00** Digital participation – what are the issues?
Rachel Thomson, Senior Programme Director - Campaigns, NIACE
- 11:30** Questions and discussion and closing remarks
- 12:00** Lunch and networking (tea/coffee available)
- 12:30** Depart

This programme is correct at the time of going to press. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the published programme in the event of one or more of the advertised speakers being unable to attend. Delegates have no claim against NIACE in respect of such changes.

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Event information

- Arrival and registration is at 9:45am for a 10:15am start. The event will end at 12:30pm
- Event fee per person: £85 (includes lunch, tea/coffee)
- **NB: NIACE does not charge VAT on conference and course fees**
- If you wish us to invoice your employer we require a copy of the Purchase Order
- Please note that the absence of a Purchase Order / Order Number will delay the processing of your application form
- Only application forms with the payments section completed will be processed
- Places will be allocated in order of receipt of completed application forms
- Completed and signed application forms must be faxed or posted to NIACE by the closing date. Reservations by telephone cannot be accepted
- Application forms are individually acknowledged by e-mail. Joining instructions, including map and directions, will be emailed out one week before the event
- Participants should be prepared to take their own notes as there will not be handouts for all sessions
- If you have not received an e-mail confirming your attendance and joining instructions 4 working days before the event please contact:

Gurjit Kaur

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Fax: 0116 254 8368

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E-mail: gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk

Application conditions

Event: Friday 24 July 2009

Closing Date: Thursday 16 July 2009

- Cancellations are non-refundable
- The full fee is payable prior to the event
- Substitutions are to be advised **5 working days** prior to the event
- A **10 working days** notice period is required for provision of electronic-notetakers, sign language interpreters and translation to Braille.

NIACE, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, was founded in 1921. The National Institute seeks to secure an education system responsive to the diversity of adults' needs and aspirations as learners, and in particular to those who benefited least from initial education. It is our belief that a system fit for adults of all ages and in all their complexity will work better for all learners.

The National Institute is active in many areas - in research, development, publishing, seminars, conferences and training courses, and has an active individual membership.

NIACE is a company limited by guarantee.
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Please complete the application in **BLOCK CAPITALS**

My organisation has authorised my attendance on **Friday 24 July 2009, Leicester**

Participant's details

Title _____ Full name _____

Job title _____ Organisation _____

Daytime tel No. _____ Mobile No. _____ Fax No. _____

Please provide an email address that is your own and regularly accessed as this will be used to send you joining instructions.

E-mail

Address _____

Postcode _____

This is my Home address Work address

Joining instructions will be sent by e-mail, if you would prefer to receive these by post, please tick this box

Payment - NIACE does not charge VAT on conference/course fees (The signatory is responsible for payment)

Event Fee per person: £85

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I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to NIACE

Please send me a receipt

I enclose Purchase Order No. _____

and request you to invoice my employer for £.....

Please note that the absence of a Purchase Order/ Order Number will delay the processing of your application form.

Invoice address:

Please debit my credit/debit card with the value of £.....

We do not accept payment by AMEX

Valid from: Expires on:

Three digit security code on reverse of card:

Issue No: (Switch/Maestro)

Name as it appears on the card:

Cardholder's signature:

Cardholder's address:

Participant's requirements

I have no special requirements	I will require a hearing loop
I will need support for my visual impairment	I will need wheelchair access
I will need an electronic note-taker	I will need facilities for an assistance dog
I will require a sign language interpreter (please specify)	
I require event materials in a specified format (please specify)	
I have the following dietary requirements (please specify)	
I have further additional requirements (please specify)	

NIACE requires a 10 working days notice period to make arrangements for electronic note-takers, sign language interpreters and translation to Braille.

Sectoral Monitoring

Adult Education College	Community Education Provider	Further Education
Government Body	Higher Education	Information/ Guidance Provider
Learning and Skills Council	Libraries, Museums, Archives, Arts	Local Government (inc. Ed Authorities)
Media	Offender Education	Open, Distance or e-learning Provider
Union	Vocational Education and Training	Voluntary Sector and Charities

Ethnic and Equal Opportunities Monitoring

Bangladeshi	Black African	Black Caribbean	Chinese
Dual Heritage	Indian	Other Asian	Other Black
Pakistani	White	Any other ethnic group	
Gender	Female	Male	
Age	Under 30	31-50	51+

Agreement

By signing the form the individual agrees to this event's Terms and Conditions

Signature	PRINT First (given) and family names	Date
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Event Date: Wednesday 24 July 2009
Closing Date: Thursday 16 July 2009

Data Protection Act

The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 (Registration Number Z7412510). Personal information supplied to NIACE will be stored securely and used in relation to NIACE's work. Full details of the purposes for which NIACE processes personal information is in our Data Protection Register entry, which can be found on the Information Commissioner's website www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk. At no time will we divulge personal information to third parties without your express consent. Participants may be contacted by letter or e-mail with details of future events and publications organised or promoted by NIACE which may be of interest to you. Database mailing update forms are sent out periodically. These provide you with the opportunity to have your details amended or deleted from the database. If you wish to receive such further information please tick this box

Please return completed application form to: Fax: 0116 254 8368
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 Enquiries to: Tel: 0116 204 2833 Email: gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk